



**Written Testimony of  
Sal Sena, Jr., President  
Towing & Recovery Professionals of Connecticut**

**HB 5366, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Statutes**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
Transportation Committee**

Good day Senator Haskell, Representative Lemar, Senator Somers, Representative Carney, and the distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this written testimony in support of **section 10 of House Bill 5366, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Statutes**. Section 10 of this legislation seeks to confirm current statute to the manufacturer standards for lighting on wreckers. Gone are the days when wreckers had two big flashing yellow lights on either side of the tow truck that are 8 feet of the ground. The current day model of these vehicles come from the manufacturer with state of the art LED lighting which increases the visibility of wrecker when towing or on the scene of an accident or disable vehicle.

Unfortunately, our current statute does not reflect the modern day standard of lighting on wreckers. TRPC's member companies appreciates the language offered in section 10 of this legislation which will increase safety for the towing industry and save an average of \$3,000 per registered wrecker in equipment expenses to retrofit each wrecker to conform with the current out of date statute.

Finally, I would most respectfully **ask that the Transportation Committee considering amending this legislation to permit the use of a green colored strobe** mounted on the rear of the wrecker to further increase visibility when on the scene of a disabled vehicle. Every six days in this country a tow truck driver is killed on our highways, anything you can do to make motorist more aware when they approach a wrecker would most assuredly save lives. I've attached an amendment to my testimony which address this issue.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this amendment and the opportunity to offer this written testimony for consideration.

## **Proposed Amendment to CGS 14-66(b)**

### **Flashing Lights on Wreckers**

**February 2022**

**Sec. 14-66. Wreckers. Towing and transporting. Distinguishing number plates. Penalties.** (b) The commissioner, or an inspector authorized by the commissioner, shall examine each wrecker, including its number, equipment and identification, and shall determine the mechanical condition of such wrecker and whether or not it is properly equipped to do the work intended. A wrecker shall be deemed properly equipped if there are [two] flashing yellow lights installed and mounted on such wrecker that [(1)] show in all directions at all times, and [(2) indicate the full width of such wrecker. Such lights shall be mounted not less than eight feet above the road surface and] **ARE** as close to the back of the cab of such wrecker as practicable. Such lights shall be in operation when such wrecker is towing a vehicle and when such wrecker is at the scene of an accident or the location of a disabled motor vehicle. **IN ADDITION, EACH WRECKER MAY INSTALL A GREEN FLASHING LIGHT MOUNTED ONLY ON THE REAR OF THE WRECKER BODY.** In addition, each wrecker shall be equipped with a spot light mounted so that its beam of light is directed toward the hoisting equipment in the rear of such wrecker. The hoisting equipment of each wrecker shall be of sufficient capacity to perform the service intended and shall be securely mounted to the frame of such vehicle. A fire extinguisher shall be carried at all times on each wrecker which shall be in proper working condition, mounted in a permanent bracket on each wrecker and have a minimum rating of eight bc. A set of three flares in operating condition shall be carried at all times on each wrecker and shall be used between the periods of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise when the wrecker is parked on a highway while making emergency repairs or preparing to pick up a disabled vehicle to remove it from a highway or adjoining property. No registrant or operator of any wrecker shall offer to give any gratuities or inducements of any kind to any police officer or other person in order to obtain towing business or recommendations for towing or storage of, or estimating repairs to, disabled vehicles. No licensee shall require the owner to sign a contract for the repair of such owner's damaged vehicle as part of the towing consideration or to sign an order for the repair of, or authorization for estimate until the tow job has been completed. No licensee shall tow a vehicle in such a negligent manner as to cause further damage to the vehicle being towed.